

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W

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P R 020835Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 201

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3673

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: CHINA-CAMBODIA

SUMMARY: IN HIS SPEECH WELCOMING THE VISITING RGNUK DELEGATION, CHOU EN-LAI STRUCK A RELATIVELY MILITANT POSTURE WHEN SPEAKING ON THE WORLD SCENE IN GENERAL, BUT IN HIS SPECIFIC REMARKS ON CAMBODIA HE DID NOT DEPART FROM CHINA'S CAUTIOUS AND RESTRAINED LINE. KHIEU SAMPHAN'S UNSTINTING PRAISE FOR THE PRC APPEARS TO GIVE THE CHINESE A LEG UP ON THE SOVIETS AND COMING JUST PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL UN SESSION IN NEW YORK, IS PROBABLY VIEWED AS A WELCOME ENDORSEMENT OF CHINA'S ANTI-IMPERIALIST CREDENTIALS. CHOU MAY ALSO FIND THE VISIT USEFUL IN REBUTTING ANY DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAT HIS POLICIES LACK REVOLUTIONARY COMMIT-
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MENT. THIS FACTOR MAY ACCOUNT FOR CHOU'S MILITANT POSE ON

THE ABSTRACT QUESTIONS OF REVOLUTION AND PEACE. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS SPEECH AT THE APRIL 1 BANQUET FOR KHIEU SAMPHAN, CHOU STRUCK A RELATIVELY MILITANT POSTURE WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT THE WORLD SCENE IN GENERAL. ONE PASSAGE IN PARTICULAR REFLECTED A STRIKINGLY JACOBIN WORLD VIEW. CHOU PROCLAIMED THAT "THE REVOLUTIONARY PEOPLE DO NOT AT ALL BELIEVE IN SO-CALLED LASTING PEACE OR A GENERATION OF PEACE." REPEATING AN OLD BUT IN RECENT YEARS SELDOM-HEARD DICTUM, CHOU SAID THAT SO LONG AS IMPERIALISM EXISTS, "REVOLUTION AND WAR ARE INEVITABLE." ALTHOUGH THE THEME OF UNIVERSAL GREAT DISORDER IS NOW ROUTINE, CHOU CAST IT IN RATHER CATAclySMIC TERMS, DECLARING THAT "THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL CONTINUE TO ADVANCE AMIDST VIOLENT TURBULENCE." CHOU WAS PARTICULARLY INSISTENT ON DISCOUNTING THE EXISTENCE OF ANY REAL DETENTE BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS AND IN ASSERTING CHINA'S PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALIST CREDENTIALS.

2. IN HIS SPECIFIC REMARKS ON CAMBODIA, HOWEVER, CHOU DID NOT DEPART FROM THE CAUTIOUS AND RESTRAINED PATTERN OF CHINESE STATEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR. HE CHARGED THAT THE U.S. WAS CONTINUING TO SUPPLY THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT WITH "MASSIVE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE" AND TO SEND ADVISERS AND EXPERTS. BUT HE DID NOT DETAIL THESE CHARGES NOR ENDORSE KHIEU SAMPHAN'S CLAIM THAT THE U.S. WAS "DIRECTLY COMMANDING THE WAR" AND THAT THE CONFLICT REMAINED "A U.S. IMPERIALIST WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE." CHOU MADE NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO PEACE PROPOSALS WHEREAS KHIEU SAMPHAN BLASTED THE "VICIOUS MANEUVERS" OF THE U.S. AND ITS "LACKEYS" IN ADVOCATING "SHAM CEASE-FIRE, SHAM TALKS, AND SHAM PEACE." NOR DID CHOU ECHO KHIEU SAMPHAN'S DEMAND THAT THE U.S. CEASE ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT (THE CHINESE SIDE, HOWEVER, WILL MOST LIKELY ENDORSE THIS IN THE SUBSEQUENT COMMUNIQUE). CHOU CAUTIOUSLY DID NOT PREDICT THE IMMINENT COLLAPSE OF THE PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT.

3. THE VISIT FOLLOWS A PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS IN WHICH THE

CHINESE WHILE DOWNGRADING SIHANOUK HAVE SEEMED CONCERNED TO EXPAND THEIR TIES TO THE IN-COUNTRY KI ELEMENTS. BOTH
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SPEAKERS GAVE LITTLE ATTENTION TO SIHANOUK. AND KHIEU SAMPHAN WAS UNSTINTING IN HIS PRAISE OF CHINA IN CONTRAST TO SIHANOUK'S VEILED COMPLAINT IN HIS SPEECHES LAST MONTH IN LAOS ABOUT THE SELFISH ATTITUDE OF THE BIG POWERS.

4. NONE OF THE SHANGHAI OR LEFTIST LEADERS HAVE SO FAR ATTENDED ANY OF THE CEREMONIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE VISIT. THEY HAVE USUALLY BEEN REPRESENTED ON SIMILAR OCCASIONS WITH

INDOCHINESE LEADERS

(E.G. DURING THE VISIT OF THE PRG DELEGATION LAST NOVEMBER). WHEN IENG SARY LEFT PEKING LAST NOVEMBER THE LEFTIST POLITBURO MEMBERS TURNED OUT IN FORCE AT THE FAREWELL BANQUET GIVEN BY CHOU.

5. COMMENT: THE VISIT APPEARS TO GIVE THE PRC A LEG UP ON THE SOVIETS(UNLESS, AS NOW SEEMS UNLIKELY, THE DELEGATION GOES ON TO MOSCOW), AND COMING JUST PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL UN SESSION IN NEW YORK IS PROBABLY VIEWED AS A WELNOME ENDORSEMENT OF CHINA'S ANTI-IMPERIALIST CREDENTIALS. CHOU MAY ALSO FIND THE VISIT USEFUL IN REBUTTING ANY DOMESTIC CRITICISM THAT HIS POLICIES LACK REVOLUTIONARY COMMITMENT. THE DOMESTIC FACTOR MAY ALSO ACCOUNT FOR CHOU'S RELATIVELY MILITANT POSE ON THE ABSTRACT QUESTIONS OF REVOLUTION AND PEACE.
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